

near the heel of the bowl, which allows it to be folded up, in order to fit in the case. This makes it more portable, a very desirable quality at that time, when people were obliged to carry their own silver spoons, as the usual articles of that kind then in use were made of pewter. It was presented to the ancestor of the person from whom Mr. Mayer purchased it, by the young Chevalier; as a remembrance of him, and as an acknowledgment for the hospitality which he received during his stay, in Manchester, on his intended march to London, in 1745.

Book Illing in Limoges enamel. Soon after the art of glazing pottery was discovered by Luca della Robia, enamelling became very much used for many purposes, and at Limoges there was established a manufactory, where the art was carried to great perfection. It was applied, however, in a different way, having for its basis thin sheets of copper, instead of terra-cotta; and many of the specimens then made have never been surpassed for the purity of colour and the texture of the body. Amongst other uses, it was employed in ornamenting the covers of books; and there are many examples still remaining of the beautifully illuminated manuscripts of that period, having illings richly ornamented with figures and other devices in high relief on copper. They are then exquisitely enamelled with brilliant colours. The accompanying cut will give an idea of the style of ornamentation.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Mr. Richard Brooke, F.S.A., in a brief communication offered some new suggestions respecting the grounds at Gawsorth. A paper on the subject will be found in vol. ii. of Proceedings and Papers, pp. 200—210. From an examination made on the 20th of May last, he believes that the appearances do not indicate the remains of an ancient Tilting Ground, but “that they are nothing more than the remains of the quaint and formal hanging gardens, raised walks, terraces, pleasure grounds, artificial hillocks or mounds, flower and fruit gardens, ponds, &c., which were formerly common near old mansions in England.” The “long and lofty terrace” mentioned by Ormerod, he regards merely as a raised walk; this is along the west side. There is a similar terrace at the east side of the garden, and

raised ground which may have been part of a terrace or a hanging garden, close behind the Hall. From the curvature in the surface of these, to allow the rain to run off, their want of accommodation for numerous spectators, and the nature of the adjoining ground, Mr. Brooke infers that they were not used by spectators at tournaments. The mount or hillock near the south end of each terrace, he regards as the position of a summer-house. The excavation supposed to have been a cock-pit, he supposes was merely a fish-pond, but admits that it might have served the former purpose. The excellent garden wall, which surrounds these remains on three sides, accounts in a great degree, it is supposed, for the good state of preservation in which they have remained till now. The ponds which exist, and others of which indications only are found, Mr. Brooke thinks were places for breeding fish, and never used for water jousts. Examples of pleasure grounds similar to those which he supposes to have existed at Gawsworth, were mentioned as having been formerly at Belvoir Castle, Risley in Derbyshire, Rock Savage and Broxton Hall in Cheshire. There were similar fish-ponds at Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and the other appearances were common. No part of the Church seems older than temp. Henry IV.

2. Mr. Brooke also made a communication relative to the old House of Correction of Liverpool to the following effect:

"The old House of Correction of Liverpool stood in Mount Pleasant, but for many years has not been used as a prison. I however can recollect prisoners being taken there, when I was a youth. It was built in 1776.

"A letter from Mr. James Neild, the philanthropist, dated 16th October, 1803, and which has been published in the Gentleman's Magazine* of that year, contains the following observations, on the House of Correction, after a personal inspection of it: 'The House of Correction built in 1776, is much improved since my former visit. The wanton severity of the Ducking Stool used upon a woman's first admission, is now discontinued, (it was formerly the punishment, in almost every Country Town in Cheshire and Lancashire, for scolds and brawling women.)'

"It is much to be regretted, that Mr. Neild has not given us the date of his first visit to the prison, but it must have been subsequently to 1776, because the prison was not erected before that year. The above passage is a remarkable one, for it may be read, as if he meant it to convey to the reader the impression, that the Ducking Stool had been used, after the prison was erected; otherwise his expression 'the Ducking Stool used upon a woman's first admission is now discontinued,' seems scarcely applicable.

"In Cheshire, the Ducking Stool for punishing women, was usually called the 'Cucking Stool.' There are many other reasons for believing that this barbarous mode of punishment was discontinued at a much later period than is generally imagined. My father has seen in a part of Cheshire where he was at school, in a pond called the Cuckstool Pond, the upright post or standard, which had been part of the apparatus, for ducking women, and it was called the Cuckstool, or Cucking-stool; and not many years ago, I saw the title deeds of some property, near Macclesfield, in which it was described, as situate in 'the Cucking-stool Land.'

* Vol. lxxiii., page 1104.